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FARMERS URGED TO ORDER FERTILIZER EARLY

Farmers of (State or county) are urged to order now and accept delivery on at least a part of their 1953 fertilizer needs before the planting season begins, says (State or local authority). This will reduce the possibility of temporary shortages due to clogging of distribution lines at the peak season of fertilizer use.

Fertilizer has not been moving rapidly enough in some areas to assure smooth distribution later on, according to information received from officials in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This can lead to a last-minute rush which will spell trouble for farmers who delay their fertilizer purchases. Achievement of the high production goals set for 1953 will depend in part upon use of larger quantities of fertilizer. Spreading of purchases over a period longer than the normal peak season in March and April will reduce distribution and delivery problems.

Demand for all three primary plant nutrients--nitrogen, phosphate, and potash--is expected to be up this year. The Department of Agriculture and the Land-Grant Colleges are cooperating in a program to promote more efficient use of fertilizer materials, and in many areas this will call for increased use of one or more of the plant nutrients. The purpose of this program is to increase yields per acre, improve the productivity of the soil, and raise the net returns to farmers.

The total supply of fertilizer is expected to be up about 12 percent over last year, but the Department of Agriculture predicts that certain desired types of fertilizer such as higher analysis phosphate materials, and ammonium nitrate may fall short of all demands.

Farmers taking early delivery on fertilizer should make certain that the materials received are in good condition so that they will withstand storage in a reasonably dry and protected place.

Note to Extension Editor--It is suggested that information on practices recommended in the States for storing and handling fertilizer be included.

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ANTIBIOTICS HELP CHICKS ABSORB FOOD

"Antibiotics will not take the place of an adequate diet in promoting the growth of young poultry," (State or local authority) cautions farmers of __________, "but they will help the chicks to absorb their food efficiently." Tests carried out by the U.S. Department of Agriculture indicate that antibiotics, such as aureomycin and penicillin stimulate growth in chicks by providing partial protection against harmful bacteria in the environment. They do not provide any of the nutrients needed for growth and development.

Chicks grow most efficiently when they are fed a good diet and are raised in clean, new quarters. But since maintenance of first-day sanitation in the brooder house is not practicable, poultrymen can use antibiotics effectively to protect chicks against the bacteria which quickly contaminate their quarters, says Mr. __________.

In young growing stock, minute quantities of antibiotics carefully mixed into the feed have the effect of increasing their ability to absorb the nutrients present in their diet. The antibiotic should always be used as a supplement,not as a substitute for any other ingredient in an adequate ration, __________ stresses. It is also important, he adds, to keep quarters as clean, sanitary, and healthful as practical because the antibiotic is only a partial--not a complete--protection against the germs present.

Feeding antibiotics to older birds is not recommended since it has not been demonstrated that these substances stimulate egg production or improve hatchability, or that feeding them to breeding birds benefits the progeny.

A good ration for young poultry (up to 8 weeks) should contain at least 20 percent protein and not more than 5 percent fiber. It should also contain fish meal or fish solubles, Vitamin "D", and an antibiotic supplement. Vitamin "B_{12}", another desirable element, can be supplied in a chemical form or through extra quantities of fish meal or meat meal. Poultrymen can check the tag on commercial starting mashes to see that these recommended ingredients are present.

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COOKING GARBAGE FED TO HOGS PREVENTS DISEASE SPREAD

Swine producers of (county or State) can protect garbage-fed hogs from vesicular exanthema and other swine diseases by cooking the garbage first. (State or Extension veterianarian) points out that although feeding garbage is an economically sound practice, it is a common means of spreading hog cholera, foot-and-mouth disease, trichinosis, tuberculosis, swine erysipelas, vesicular exanthema, and other diseases of swine.

Dr. ____________ cites a study carried out cooperatively by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Public Health Service of the Federal Security Agency which indicates that garbage heated to 212 degrees Fahrenheit (the boiling point of water) and held at that temperature for at least 30 minutes is free of disease organisms and therefore safe for animal feed. The food value is not affected unless the 212-degree temperature is maintained for much longer than a half hour or an appreciably higher temperature is used. Feeding trials at the California Agricultural Experiment Station indicated very little difference in daily gains of hogs fed on cooked garbage and those fed on raw garbage from the same source.

Vesicular exanthema spread sporadically in California for 20 years, but had not appeared outside that State until 1952. Within 30 days after it was first identified in Nebraska, the disease had appeared in 16 States. It has now been identified in 33 States, but never in that many at any one time. In this outbreak, it is generally believed that the disease was brought out of California in garbage containing infected pork scraps. All the infection of the past few months has been among, or has been traced to, swine herds fed on raw garbage.

Canada requires cooking of garbage as a protection against hog cholera. England enforces similar regulations to prevent foot-and-mouth disease and cholera. Death and disease rates among hogs fed on garbage in these countries are considerably lower than those in the United States.

(Over)

Garbage can be treated successfully by boiling or wet steaming in an open vat, by dry steaming in a jacketed kettle or cylinder, or by steaming in a pressure kettle. A loose cover over an open vessel will help to secure more even heat distribution. Having all particles of small, uniform size will also help the heat to penetrate evenly. Pressure steaming calls for more expensive equipment and involves some hazards, but it has the advantage of being faster and it softens some fish, poultry, and meat bones sufficiently to make them edible.

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Order Pesticides Early, Says (Local authority):

Adequacy of the supply of pesticides for the 1953 crop year may depend on how good a job farmers do of ordering their minimum needs in advance.

Raw materials and production facilities appear to be adequate to meet normal needs this year, according to (State or local authority), but problems could arise if there is a sudden rush to buy any particular item. An unexpectedly severe infestation could cause a run on available stock.

Mr. ________________ urges farmers in (State or county) to estimate their minimum 1953 pesticide needs and order these amounts well ahead of the growing season. Then producers will be better prepared to supply additional materials if an emergency should arise.

Supplies of DDT, benzene hexachloride, lead arsenate, and calcium arsenate are expected to be adequate for normal needs. The same is generally true for such organic phosphorous insecticides as parathion and TEPP and various "trade name" products now used for purposes for which sulfur was formerly the only control. It also appears that the supply of sulfur, for use both as a fungicide and as an insecticide, will be equal to expected demand.

The supply of copper fungicides has been about equal to demand and is likely to remain so. Production of dithiocarbamate and other synthetic fungicides has increased to meet the stronger demand for them. Supplies should be sufficient this year for treating seed and for controlling fungus diseases of fruit and vegetable crops.

Increased production of 2,4-D, sodium chlorate, and the other more common weed-killing chemicals should meet the growing demand for them in 1953.

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Extension Editors: It is suggested that information on locally recommended practices in the use of these chemicals be included.

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U. S. MEAT PRODUCTION ROSE SIX PERCENT IN 1952

Cattle slaughtered commercially in ____(State)____ in 1952 amounted to ____________ head, or a total live weight of ____________ thousand pounds, as compared with ____________ head, or a live weight of ____________ thousand pounds, slaughtered in 1951, according to figures released by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Calf slaughter in ____(State)____ rose (or fell) to ____________ head in 1952, as compared with ____________ thousand head in 1951. Commercial slaughter of hogs rose (or fell) to ____________ in 1952, from ____________ head in 1951, while commercial slaughter of sheep and lambs here in 1952 was ____________ head, as compared with ____________ head in 1951.

Nationally, commercial meat production for the year 1952 was 21.4 billion pounds, 6 percent more than the 20.2 billion pounds produced in 1951. As compared with 1951, mutton and lamb production during 1952 was up 25 percent, veal production, 11 percent; beef production, 9 percent; and pork production, 1 percent.

During 1952 a total of 17.9 million head of cattle were slaughtered in the United States, an increase of 9 percent from the 16.4 million head slaughtered during 1951. A total of 8.9 million head of calves were slaughtered in 1952, an increase of 6 percent over the 8.4 million head killed during 1951.

Commercial hog slaughter during 1952 totaled 77.7 million head, 2 percent more than the 76.1 million head slaughtered in 1951. The number of sheep and lambs slaughtered totaled 14.0 million head, 26 percent more than in the previous year.

For 1953, meat production will probably not be much different from that of 1952. Beef supplies will be larger, but these may be about offset by a smaller pork production which will result from the 12 percent cut farmers have made in 1952 fall farrowings and the 13 percent reduction which is expected in 1953 spring farrowings.

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(Figures needed to fill in the blanks can be obtained from the attached report, Livestock and Poultry on Farms and Ranches, January 1.)

State Livestock Figures Released by USDA

Cattle and calves on farms in________(State)__________numbered__________ on January 1, 1953, according to figures released by the Crop Reporting Board of the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, USDA. This number compares with______________ cattle and calves held on____(State)________farms at the beginning of 1952. The increase (or decrease) is in line with (or in contrast to) the national trend to an all-time record high in cattle numbers reported on United States farms on January 1 of this year.

The average value per head of all____(State)________cattle as of January 1 was estimated by crop reporters at $_________compared with $__________per head a year ago, and a 10-year (1942-51) average of $______________.

Cows and heifers 2 years old and over numbered________on_____(State)______ farms January 1, rising (or falling) from___________a year earlier, the BAE figures showed. Their average value per head was estimated at $___________, as compared with an estimated average value of $__________a year ago, and a 10-year average of $___________.

Hogs and pigs on___(State)______farms numbered____________thousand, ____________thousand less (or more) than the 1952 figures, and their average value per head was estimated at $_________,as compared with $________per head value in 1952 and an average value of $___________over the past 10 years.

Sheep numbers fell (or rose) from________to________in___(State)________ between January 1, 1952, and January 1, 1953, an increase (or decrease) of________.

____(State)____farmers possessed___________chickens (excluding commercial broilers) as of January 1, the Crop Reporting Board estimates show. This compares with____________held on January 1, 1952, and a 10-year average of___________. Turkeys on____(State)______farms numbered_______this year, as compared with_______ last year and a 10-year average of_______. This does not include turkey fryers.

(Over)

Background

Nationally, there was an estimated total of 93,696,000 head of cattle and calves on farms at the beginning of this year, BAE reports. This is 7 percent or 5.9 million head above the previous record a year earlier and 16 percent above the 10-year (1942-51) average of 80,491,000 head. Milk cows and heifers 2 years old or older, at 23,996,000 head, are up 3 percent from last year but are 7 percent less than the 10-year average.

A drop in average value per head of all cattle from $179 last year to $128 this year more than offsets the increase in numbers. The total inventory value of all cattle and calves was about 12 billion dollars as of January 1, 3.7 billion less than the all-time record value of 15.7 billion dollars on January 1, 1952. Nevertheless, value per head is still considerably above the preceding 10-year average of $96.90. Value per head of milk cows on United States farms January 1, 1953, is estimated at $202, as compared with $251 a year ago and a 10-year average of $139, according to the BAE figures.

Hogs on United States farms January 1, 1953, are estimated at 54,632,000 head, a decline of 14 percent from the number reported a year earlier. This is the lowest number since 1948, and 13 percent below the 1942-51 average. Value per head fell to $25.90 from an average value of $30 a year earlier, estimates showed.

National sheep numbers were estimated at 27,857,000 head, 1 percent below the 28,050,000 head on farms and ranches at the beginning of last year, and 22 percent below the 1942-51 average. The numbers of horses and mules declined 11 percent and 8 percent respectively.

Chickens on United States farms January 1, 1953, excluding commercial broilers, totaled 431,410,000. This is 4 percent less than a year ago and 12 percent below the 1942-51 average. Farm holdings of turkeys (excluding fryers) numbered 5,339,000--8 percent less than a year ago and 13 percent below the 1942-51 average.

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FARMERS URGED TO PLAN EARLY FOR LABOR NEEDS

Farmers in (State or county)__ can help to avoid labor problems by planning ahead for their labor needs and letting their local State Employment Service office know as early as possible how many workers they will need and for what period. This is the suggestion of (State or local authority) who also cites good housing, continuous employment, and other attractive employment conditions as important factors in attracting good farm labor. Willingness on the part of farmers to employ and train inexperienced workers will also ease recruitment problems, ____________________ adds.

Prospective farm workers can help, too, Mr.__________ emphasizes, by registering with State Employment Service offices and being specific about the periods during which they expect to be available for employment. Workers should keep in constant touch with local Employment Service offices for guidance in finding work and locating areas where help is needed.

The number of farm workers in the United States has declined by nearly 2 million in the past decade and a half, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Yet, despite this fact, total farm output in 1952 was 44 percent above the 1935-39 average. __________ accredits this achievement to increased mechanization of farming operations and a widespread adoption of better farm practices leading to higher crop and livestock yields with fewer man-hours of work.

Continued movement of workers away from the farm can be expected in the years ahead if there is a general high level of employment. Mr.____________ predicts. This will mean some difficult farm labor problems and possibly further long-range adjustments in farming operations in some areas. A sharp acceleration of the trend, he adds, could seriously affect efforts to meet a continued need for high-level agricultural production.

Almost 1 million farm workers have gone into industry or the military service in the past 3 years. To partially offset this and to meet the demand for farm labor this year, the Department of Labor through its State Employment Service offices is again preparing to carry out farm labor recruitment and placement programs in areas affected by farm labor shortages, with increased effort to recruit year-round workers.

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CONSUMERS' FOOD COSTS REMAIN THE SAME DESPITE A DROP IN FARM PRICES

Farm prices of food products declined in 1952, but all advantage to consumers was offset by increased costs of marketing. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture, reports that the average retail price of the foods in the family market basket was the same in the final quarter of 1952 as it was in the same period of 1951, even though their farm value had fallen approximately 7 percent in the interim. The explanation lies in the fact that the charges for marketing the farm-produced foods rose approximately 7 percent in the same period.

With marketing charges higher and farm prices lower, the farmer's share of the dollar consumers spent for food shrank to 46 cents in the last quarter of 1952 as compared with an average of 50 cents a year earlier.

Higher wages for food-marketing employees, higher transportation costs, and increased rents were all responsible for the increased marketing costs, according to BAE. Average hourly earnings of employees in food-marketing enterprises were 5 percent higher in November 1952 than a year earlier. Transportation rates of both rail and motor carriers were raised during 1952, and rents and other costs of firms marketing agricultural products advanced during the year.

Since no reduction in these costs is anticipated in the near future, the Bureau of Agricultural Economics considers it reasonable to assume that the present level of food-marketing charges will be at least maintained in 1953.

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DAIRY CATTLE ON THE INCREASE (OR DECREASE) IN (STATE)

Cows and heifers 2-years-old-and-over kept for milk in (State) as of January 1, 1953, rose (or fell) to ____________ from ____________ a year earlier, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture. This compares with a 10-year (1942-51) average of __________ head. Yearling heifers being kept for milk cows on January 1 of this year in (State) numbered __________ compared with __________ held a year ago, and heifer calves numbered __________ compared with ___________ last year.

These increases (or decreases) are in line with (or in contrast with) a national upsurge at the beginning of this year in numbers of heifers and cows being kept for dairy purposes, reversing a downward trend each year since 1946. Across the Nation, cows and heifers 2-years-old-and-over being kept for milk on January 1, 1953, were estimated by BAE at 23,996,000 head, 3 percent more than on January 1, 1952. Yearling heifers being kept for milk cows totaled 5,970,000 head, an increase of 4 percent over a year ago, and heifer calves kept for milk are estimated at 6,913,000 head, or 6 percent greater than the number saved for replacement purposes last year.

At the beginning of 1952, the total number of cows kept for milk on farms in the United States was 23,369,000, the lowest in over 20 years and more than 4 million less than the record high of 27,770,000 reached in 1945.

Milk production per cow in (State) rose (or fell) to ____________ pounds in 1952, as compared with ____________ pounds per cow in 1951. Average milk production per cow for the United States as a whole was estimated at 5,328 pounds in 1952, the highest record thus far achieved on a Nation-wide basis.

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NOTE TO EDITORS: Figures for blanks can be obtained from attached mimeographed sheet.

USDA 511 (3-53)

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POISON BAIT WILL CONTROL SLUGS AND SNAILS

Garden slugs and snails, annoying and destructive pests in gardens, orchards, greenhouses, and households, can be controlled by a poison bait containing metaldehyde plus either calcium arsenate or sodium fluosilicate, says (State authority)__________.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers' Bulletin No. 1895, Land Slugs and Snails and Their Control, describes the common, destructive species of these pests, their habits, life histories, and methods of controlling them. Single copies of this bulletin, which was revised in January 1953, can be obtained by writing to the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Several common species of snails and slugs (snail-like animals without shells) are widely distributed throughout the United States and do extensive damage each year, according to _______________. In gardens they cause serious losses through their attacks on seedlings, flowers, and vegetables. Potatoes, cabbages, and other produce stored in damp, cool cellars are also subject to attack, as are succulent plants and seedlings in greenhouses. The trail of slimy mucus left by these small animals reduces the sales value of many ornamental plants, and their habit of nibbling here and there renders some vegetables unmarketable. They are also annoying pests to many householders because of their presence in cellars, around foundations, on walks, and in wells.

Light infestations of snails and slugs can be eliminated by simple sanitation measures, or in some cases by ducks and chickens. More persistent or widespread infestations may require the use of poison bait, which can be obtained commercially or can be mixed at home according to directions outlined in the Farmers' Bulletin.

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CONTROL PESTS IN HOME GARDENS

While stocking up on seeds, fertilizers, and other supplies for this year's home gardens, it is well to plan ahead for controlling the insect and plant disease pests which are sure to follow, says ____(local authority)____.

Simple directions for the control of common vegetable garden pests are available, ______________________ points out, in the recently reprinted Vegetable Gardeners' Handbook on Insects and Diseases prepared by the United States Department of Agriculture and now issued as Home and Garden Bulletin No. 23. This booklet includes brief descriptions and pictures to aid in identification of pests, formulas and directions for mixing insecticides and fungicides needed for effective control, and descriptions of the necessary equipment.

Single copies of this publication can be obtained free by writing to the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. It is also for sale by the Superintendent of Documents, U. S. Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D. C., for 20 cents.

Information regarding the purchase of the insecticides and fungicide materials may be obtained through experienced local gardeners, local dealers in agricultural supplies, and seedsmen; or through the county agricultural agent, State agricultural college, or State department of agriculture. County agents will assist home gardeners with additional printed material and advice for dealing with local pest problems.

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Wheat Stem Sawfly Damage Can Be Reduced by Crop Rotation and Other Practices

Crop rotation can assist in holding down infestation of the wheat stem sawfly in the Great Plains region, says (State or local authority). Sawfly-infested wheatfields that are to be recropped this year should be seeded to barley, oats, flax, corn, mustard, or some other resistant crop. Wheat in the infested area should be seeded only on clean summer fallow or on ground that was in a resistant crop last year. And these fields should be located as far as possible from fields infested with sawflies last season because wheat stubble harbors sawfly larvae.

Sawfly-infested wheatfields that were shallow-cultivated or plowed after harvest last fall may be exceptions to the rule, ____________________ points out. Shallow cultivation that throws the stubble to the surface of the ground exposes the larvae hidden within to a drying action from air and sun, which kills 70 percent or more of them. Deep plowing with a moldboard plow also destroys many larvae and traps many adults, especially where a packer is used to break up the clods and pack the soil. When the stubble is thoroughly buried, as many as 90 percent of the sawflies are killed. (Deep plowing should be avoided where soil blowing or washing is a possibility, Mr. _______________ cautions. It should also be avoided in the sawfly-infested areas of Montana where wireworms are a problem, because the deep, loose soil condition thus produced is favorable for wireworm activity.)

Stubble burning is ineffective in killing the sawfly larvae, _____________ ____________ warns, because the larvae are too far below the surface of the ground to be affected by the heat.

(more)

Neither are planting of trap strips and delayed seeding recommended as methods of controlling sawfly damage, he adds. Trap strips of early wheat or fallowed ground do not provide sufficient protection to justify their cost and, though grain seeded after May 20 will be free from infestation, reduction in yields from such late plantings will more than offset the damage caused by sawflies. Since the sawfly does its most serious damage in August, it is better to seed at the normal time and harvest as soon as the grain is mature.

The sawfly damages wheat in two ways. First it weakens the stems and reduces the weight of the grain kernels by tunneling in the stems. Then, near harvesttime, it girdles the inside of the stems near ground level, causing many plants to break and fall over. Heads of fallen grain often are not recovered during harvest.

This pest caused an estimated 17-million-dollar loss to the North Dakota and Montana wheat crop in 1952, according to the U. S. Department of Agriculture, destroying nearly 8 million bushels of grain. In addition it was found last year in 122 counties not previously recorded as infested in South Dakota, Wyoming, and Nebraska.

(Footnote--In Montana, where rust is not a serious threat, the sawfly-resistant wheat variety Recuse should be recommended if wheat is to be seeded in or near infested fields.)

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Chlordane or Toxaphene Recommended for Control of Strawberry Crown Borer:

Timely applications of the insecticides chlordane or toxaphene will control the strawberry crown borer, a pest of commercial and home garden strawberries grown east of the Rocky Mountains, according to entomologists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

For effective control the insecticides must be applied early--just before the strawberry plants begin to bloom--so that the adult beetles will be killed before they deposit the eggs that will develop into the destructive borers.

The adults are small, reddish-brown snout beetles, while the borers themselves are tiny, white grubs with brown heads. Soon after hatching from eggs, the borers burrow down toward the center of the strawberry plant, growing and enlarging the burrow as they go. When full grown--usually in late summer--the borer grubs are about 1/5 inch long.

The borers can also be identified by the damage they do, the entomologists say. The lower leaves of infested plants die and dry up, and the upper leaves are lighter in color than normal. Infested plants develop only a few runners and do not produce well.

Insecticidal dusts containing 5 percent chlordane or 20 percent toxaphene applied at the rate of 30 pounds per acre provide good control of this borer, the entomologists find. Dust should be applied so that the plants and the soil at the base of the plants are covered lightly but thoroughly.

To supplement insecticide treatments for control of the strawberry crown borer, entomologists recommend that growers plant new fields only with certified nursery stock that has been dug early and washed free of all soil. New fields should be located at least 350 yards away from infested beds of strawberries, or patches

(more)

of cinquefoil (fivefinger) and wild strawberries, in which the crown borers also thrive.

Established infestations of the crown borers can be controlled by plowing the strawberry plants under deeply after harvest, and then following this with a harrow or other implement to compact the soil. A tight soil helps prevent the escape of buried beetles.

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Farmer's Bulletin on Wheat Strawworm Available:

Directions for protecting wheat from one of its principal insect enemies--the wheat strawworm--are offered by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in a newly revised Farmer's Bulletin.

USDA entomologists say that the annual damage caused by this pest in the wheat-growing States east of the Mississippi River is exceeded only by that of the Hessian fly and the wheat jointworm, and in some areas it exceeds both of these in destructiveness. A serious outbreak in Kansas one year caused a loss estimated between 10 and 15 million bushels of wheat.

The species is usually present in considerable numbers wherever wheat is grown, the entomologists report, and its populations can increase rapidly when conditions are favorable. But even when it is very abundant and destructive its presence may be readily overlooked, they say, and the damage ascribed to other causes. To hold down this pest, constant attention should be given to control measures.

Since the wheat strawworm lives only on wheat, an effective control measure is not to plant wheat within 75 yards of the previous year's wheat straw or stubble. When possible, infested stubble should be plowed under after harvest. In spring wheat areas volunteer plants should be destroyed. It is also well to destroy volunteer wheat around wheat stacks early in the spring and avoid topdressing with manure containing infested straw.

Single copies of The Wheat Strawworm and Its Control, Farmers' Bulletin No. 1323, revised March 1953, may be ordered from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. (or from State Extension Service or other State source if it is available).

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and Va.

Leaflet on Control of Mole Crickets Available

The destructive mole cricket, sometimes called cricket mole or "ground puppy," can be successfully controlled through use of a poison bait containing chlordane or sodium fluosilicate. Directions for mixing the bait and applying it are contained in a newly revised U. S. Department of Agriculture leaflet. Single copies may be obtained by ordering Leaflet No. 237, Control of Mole Crickets, from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., or copies may be purchased for 5 cents from the Superintendent of Documents, Washington 25, D. C.

The mole cricket injures plants by feeding on the roots, root stems, tubers, or fruits and also by burrowing in the upper inch or two of the soil about the roots, causing plants to dry out or uprooting them. Sprouting seedlings or transplants are especially subject to injury. Crops most frequently affected include vegetables, tobacco, peanuts, strawberries (of which they eat the fruit), and grasses.

The USDA leaflet describes the adult mole cricket as a light-brown insect, about 1½ inches long, the underside being lighter colored than the upper and often slightly tinged with green. Its most striking features are large, beady eyes and short, stout front legs which bear shovellike feet well fitted for digging. Outbreaks of these pests occur in the South Atlantic and Gulf Coast States from North Carolina to Texas.

USDA 781 (4-53)

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Animals Dislike Forage With High Tannic Acid Content:

When animals refuse to eat heartily of an apparently desirable forage crop, the reason may be that the plants contain too much tannin (bitter substances related to the compounds used in tanning leather). This theory, which has been suggested by a number of forage experts in the past but never proved, appears to have been confirmed by an experiment carried out at the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Research Center at Beltsville, Md.

The importance of this finding, the USDA scientists say, lies in the fact that once tannin is definitely identified as the cause for poor taste value, more palatable lines of otherwise valuable forage crops can be developed by plant breeders.

Sericea lespedeza, a perennial legume adapted to a wide variety of soil conditions in the South, is an example. This plant is frequently rejected as a forage crop by farmers in areas where it will grow well, because their grazing animals do not appear to like it.

The scientists at Beltsville fed equal amounts of 3 types of sericea lespedeza containing different percentages of tannin to 2 mature sheep over a period of 6 days. Each of the 3 kinds of sericea was served "cafeteria style" in a separate feed bin. Location of the feed in the bins was rotated each day in order that the sheep would not go to the most palatable forage through habit. All other food was withheld, and careful records were kept of the amounts of each type of sericea consumed daily. Rejected forage was collected, weighed, and analized for tannin content and other properties.

The preliminary results obtained seem to verify the belief that tannin definitely affects palatability. All the sericea with the lowest tannin content was consumed, while 72 percent of the high-tannin type was rejected. The fact that the high-tannin forage was leafy and possessed other desirable forage characteristics serves also to indicate that there is a relationship between the amount of tannin in a plant and its attractiveness to animals.

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United States Department of Agriculture

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FILLERS

Farmers are feeling the pinch of lower prices. United States farmers sold 11 percent more farm products in the first 2 months of this year than they sold in the same period of last year, according to a report from the U. S. Department of Agriculture, but the money they received increased only slightly because of lower average prices.

Meat production so far this year has been about the same as in the corresponding period in 1952, reports the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, USDA. Increased output of beef and veal has been offset by a sharp drop in pork production.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture estimates that milk production for 1953 will probably be up 2 or 3 billion pounds over the 115 billion pounds produced in 1952.

Varieties of cotton grown in this country have been reduced in the past 25 years from 600 to 30 improved types, according to cotton experts in the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Both strength and length of fiber have been increased through breeding improvements, and cotton is more uniform and dependable, they add. Primitive cottons brought in from Guatemala and Mexico form the nucleus of new breeding stock which will lead to even greater fiber strength in the next 5 or 10 years.

CMC, a chemical compound which can be added to rinse water to make cotton more soilproof, is now coming into the markets for household use, according to a report from the Agricultural Research Administration, U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Income From Farming Expected To Drop This Year

The total amount of money received from farm marketings in the first quarter of 1953 was 6.6 billion dollars, down 2 percent from last year, according to a report by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. An increase of 6 percent in the volume of commodities marketed was more than offset by the lower prices received. In __(State)____, Farmers received a total of ____________________ dolars from marketings in January and February of this year, as compared with _____________ dollars received in the same period last year.

In general, prices received by farmers are expected to continue at a lower level this year than they were in 1952, but production costs will remain almost as high as a year ago. This points to a drop in net farm income this year. The Bureau of Agricultural Economics estimates a reduction of about a billion dollars in net income from last year's total of 14.3 billion, but still approximately a billion dollars above the post World War II low of 12.3 billion dollars received in 1950. Any material change in present production prospects would change this outlook.

Individual farmers' expenses and cash returns always vary by a large margin, the Bureau points out. These differences are influenced by the location of the farm and the type of operation. A reduction in expenditures can be expected this year on those farms that make large purchases of feed and livestock, and reductions in cash returns will be greatest on farms whose products have dropped farthest in price since 1952, such as beef cattle.

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Chemical Defoliants Aid in Cotton Insect Control

Cotton growers who are buying and applying their insecticides at this time of year might consider the place of defoliants in their insect control program. Chemical defoliation of cotton is an effective means of suppressing cotton insect infestations and reducing crop losses, according to (State authority).

Tests with chemical defoliants undertaken by the U. S. Department of Agriculture with a view to finding a satisfactory way to prepare the crop for mechanical harvesting led to the incidental discovery that defoliation of cotton also has an adverse effect on the activities of the insects that cut cotton yields. This applies, says ______________ to the cotton aphid, the cotton leafworm, and certain sucking insects, as well as to the more economically important "bollworms" --boll weevil and pink bollworm. Some of these pests are killed outright by contact with the defoliant, and others are prevented from carrying out their normal cycles of development.

Conditions of moisture should determine the type of defoliant that is used, _______________ reports. In humid areas calcium cyanamide has proved the most popular chemical for this purpose. In more arid climates, especially where pink bollworm is a problem, 4 percent pentachlorophenol in diesel oil has given the best results under a wide range of conditions.

In general, defoliants should be applied as soon as possible after the bolls have matured. Damage to fiber and seed is likely to occur if the bolls are younger than 30 days of age. The best time to apply the chenical depends upon a number of environmental conditions as well as the stage of maturity.

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Tests show that the opening of mature bolls is accelerated by action of the defoliant. Therefore, picking should be planned to take place immediately after leaf fall, ________________ points out. In areas where stalk destruction is a recommended practice, this should follow as closely as possible after harvest. Defoliation helps in meeting stalk destruction deadlines by hastening maturity and stepping up the harvesting process.

County Agents are a good source of information on the best defoliant for their section and the proper time to apply it. Early purchase of defoliants and insecticides insures having them on hand when needed.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Act Now To Save Wheat From Insect and Rodent Damage

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure" when it comes to protecting wheat from insects, birds, and rodents, says (county agent or State authority). The first step in protecting wheat is to get rid of sources of infestation, and Mr. ____________ stresses that this action should be taken now, before the crop is harvested.

Even a few grains of wheat left over from last year can harbor enough weevils to start a serious infestation, Mr. ____________ emphasizes. It is important to destroy these weevils before this year's crop is stored because once they gain a foothold in new grain, their numbers will multiply rapidly and they are very difficult to stamp out.

To prevent this Mr. ____________ recommends that grain bins should be cleaned thoroughly to remove all bits of grain and dust from corners and cracks. Then walls and floors should be sprayed with an insecticide. For this purpose the U. S. Department of Agriculture recommends the following: DDT or methoxychlor wettable powder sprays at 2½ percent concentration applied at the rate of 2 gallons per thousand square feet of surface. Or pyrethrin or allethrin emulsion sprays at 0.5 percent concentration applied at the rate of 2 gallons per thousand square feet.

The cleanup should be extended to all surrounding areas from which insects can crawl or fly. Feed rooms, small pockets of grain left in machinery, and spilled grain are common sources of infestation.

Among other jobs which should be completed before new grain is stored, Mr. ____________ suggests checking for leaks or openings through which moisture

(Over)

may reach the grain, and elimination of entrances for birds, rats, or mice. Windows kept open for ventilation should be covered with hardware cloth or screen to keep birds out. Old lumber and trash piles which may harbor rats and mice should be destroyed, and traps set to catch any rodents that are present. Metal-flashing can be used around the foundation and over holes to ratproof the building in which grain is to be stored.

Mr. __________ believes that stricter enforcement of Food and Drug Administration rulings will make grain buyers more discriminating this year. Shipments of contaminated grain, he reminds farmers, are subject to seizure and may be classified as unfit for human food.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Time for Screwworm Control Is Here

To avoid possible heavy losses this year from screwworm infestations, stockmen should familiarize themselves with this costly pest of livestock and means of reducing the losses, warn entomologists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. Another mild winter in Texas made it possible for the worms to overwinter as far as 150 miles north of their normal winter range there, thus preserving more individual insects and giving them an early start in their annual migration northward.

In favorable seasons the adult flies may travel into Louisiana, Oklahoma, Kansas, Missouri, Georgia, Alabama, and North and South Carolina from their winter range in Mexico, Texas, and Florida. Screwworm outbreaks above this zone can usually be traced to infested animals shipped from the South.

To become infested an animal must have a wound on which the screwworm fly can lay its eggs. Once infested, wounds become more attractive to female flies and numerous egg masses about the edges and hundreds of larvae of different sizes may be found in the same wound at the same time. When they become abundant the larvae feed so rapidly on vital tissues such as muscle, nerve, blood, and lymph that they may cause the animal to die within a week or 10 days.

For prevention of screwworm infestation, the entomologists stress the importance of care to avoid wounding of animals during the screwworm season, regular inspections of animals, and prompt treatment of accidental wounds that may occur. When animals are shipped to Northern States, careful inspection should be made before shipment, upon arrival at the destination, and daily thereafter for at least 4 days. Wounds should be treated immediately with a medicine called EQ-335, smear 62, or other similar remedies.

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EQ-335, developed by scientists in the Bureau of Entomology and Plant Quarantine of the U. S. Department of Agriculture, contains the chemical insecticide lindane. Because of its more lasting effects as a screwworm poison, it need be applied only once a week on most wounds, whereas other medicines should be applied twice a week. EQ-335 will also kill female screwworm flies that lay eggs in the wound.

Medicines for treating wounds to kill or prevent screwworm infestations are usually available at drugstores or from insecticide dealers. Since supplies in the North may not be available or may be inadequate if outbreaks occur, entomologists emphasize that this is another reason for avoiding outbreaks in these areas. The insect can multiply rapidly when it is overlooked and cause heavy livestock losses over a large area in a short time.

Background Information

Screwworm infestations can be identified by the white, flat, shinglelike masses of eggs that the parent flies attach to the edge of an open wound on an animal, or by the screwworms themselves, which are a nearly transparent white, becoming a pinkish color as they mature. Their mouth hooks are also an easy-to-recognize characteristic. The spines on their bodies give them a screwlike appearance -- and their name. Two tiny breathing tubes that open at the rear of the screwworm's body appear black against the worm's color, and provide another good way of identifying this pest. When the screwworms mature, they are about half an inch long. They then leave the wound, dig into the soil, and transform to a resting stage. The adult fly comes out in about 10 days and is soon ready to lay eggs on any wound of an animal to start a new life cycle.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Garden Watering Systems Increase Vegetable Production

In ordinary seasons a well-watered kitchen garden produces at least 50 percent more than one that depends entirely on rainfall. And during very dry seasons, regular watering may mean the difference between good batches of high-quality vegetables and little or no crop at all, says (county agent or State authority). This extra production, he points out, may pay for the costs involved in installing the necessary watering equipment.

General equipment needed and factors to be considered in planning a garden watering system are described in the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Farmers' Bulletin No. 2044, Using Electricity in Watering Farm Gardens. Single copies of this publication can be obtained free from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. (or from a State source, if it is available).

Farmers who plan to install watering equipment in their vegetable gardens this year should consider how much garden can be watered efficiently and economically by their present well and pump system.

The quantity of water needed for each application will depend somewhat on the crop and the local conditions, but Mr. ________________ emphasizes that the ground should be wet to full root depth in each watering. Otherwise, shallow rooting is encouraged. One inch of water applied over a period of several hours will usually be sufficient to soak the ground to the proper depth. Water should never be applied at a rate faster than the ground can soak it up.

If a garden watering system has not been used before, Mr. ____________ recommends a check on the capacity of the well. To apply the equivalent of 1 inch of water to a half-acre garden plot in 24 hours of pumping requires a pump with a capacity of about 550 gallons an hour, according to Department of Agriculture engineers.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Care Prevents Breakdowns in Electric Water Systems

Now that warm weather, the season of heavy water use, is approaching, (county agent or local authority) urges farmers to give their electric water systems the care that will forestall many a hot-weather breakdown.

Mr. ____________________ lists six items which should be checked or adjusted at regular intervals on most electric water systems to keep them working smoothly and avoid breakdowns. If directions from the manufacturer are not obtainable, and the owner does not know how to check these things himself, it will pay to call in a reliable serviceman:

1. Lubricating the motor and pump.--Frequency of oiling and the amount of oil to be used vary widely, depending on the type and make of motor and pump. Too much oil can be as damaging as underoiling.

2. Stuffing-box adjustments.--All pumps except those with rotary seals are equipped with a stuffing box. If the packing in the stuffing box is too tight it will cause the pump to run hard. If it is too loose it will cause excessive leakage. The cap on the end of the stuffing box is an adjustment for tightening the packing. When it is properly adjusted, a few drops of water a minute will leak through it to lubricate the packing.

3. Checking the safety pressure releases.--It is good practice to remove and clean the safety pressure release once a year. This mechanism prevents the building up of dangerous pressures in the water tank if the automatic switch should become faulty.

4. Belt tension.--On a pump driven by a V-belt, improper belt tension will cause the belt to slip or put excessive strain on the bearings. Correct tension is about the same as that for a fan belt on an automobile.

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5. Air-volume control.--Too much air in the pressure tank causes water to "spit" vigorously from faucets. Too little air causes the pump to stop and start too frequently.

6. Cleaning the motor.--To work right, motors must be clean, dry, properly lubricated, and fed electricity through good wiring. At least once a year, dirt should be wiped from the outside of the motor and all ventilation openings cleaned out. Some motors may need to be disassembled and internal parts cleaned.

Mr.____________________also points out that most electric water systems in general use were not built to withstand constant exposure to outside weather. Rain, wind, freezing temperatures, and sunshine will cause damage and hasten deterioration. A well-built pumphouse will repay its cost in increased life of the system.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Costs Drop, but Not Enough to Balance Lower Farm Prices

While the prices farmers receive for their products have been registering some declines, the prices they pay for the things they need to produce and for living have decreased only slightly in comparison. This is borne out by figures published by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics.

Here are some of the price statistics gathered by the Bureau:

Electric brooders dropped ten cents from an average of $45.50 to $45.40 between March 15 of last year and March 15 of this year. One-bottom tractor plows dropped from an average price of $143 to $136 during the same period. But manure spreaders went up an average of 3 dollars from $420 to $423, and gasoline went up from an average of 26.4 cents to 26.8 cents. Men's overalls dropped an average of one cent in price and boy's shoes dropped 3 cents, from an average of $5.00 to $4.97. Men's work shoes cost 29 cents less, dropping from an average of $7.16 to $6.87 per pair. Women's percale house dresses went up 5 cents from $3.07 to an average of $3.12.

Among prices received by farmers, potatoes dropped from an average of $2.31 to $1.34 per bushel between April 1952 and April 1953. During the same period, a seventy-pound crate of lettuce fell from an average price of $3.05 to $2.75. Tomatoes per bushel dropped in the same period from $7.25 to $5.40 and strawberries from $13.20 per crate to $11.70.

The parity ratio between prices received for farm products and prices paid now stands at 93, according to the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. Parity is a statistical means of expressing the relationship between prices paid by farmers and prices received by them. The years 1910-14 are used as a base period. A 100 percent parity ratio means that prices paid and prices received stand at about the

(Over)

same balance as they did in the base period.

The present ratio of 93 shows that prices received by farmers average 7 percent below the level which would restore the balance that existed in the base period. Such a balance existed just one year ago when, on April 15, 1952, the parity ratio was 100.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Antibiotics Show Promise for Plant Disease Control

Experiments carried out at the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Plant Industry Station at Beltsville, Maryland, indicate that bacterial diseases of plants may be controlled in the near future by antibiotic sprays.

In greenhouse experiments and field trials at the station, halo blight, a common bacterial disease of beans, was successfully stamped out by applications of streptomycin sulfate. It remains only to find a means of using the antibioctic in a crude state rather than in its expensive, ourified form to make this method of control practical for farm use, say the Beltsville scientists. Recommendations for general use should be ready within the next year or two.

In the Beltsville experiments, streptomycin sulfate was applied to the stems of the plants. The antibiotic was absorbed by the stems and moved upward to nearby leaves in sufficient amounts to protect them from the halo-blight bacteria which was alo applied by means of high pressure sprays. No evidence was found that the antibiotic entered the pods, or edible portions of the plants.

Further research on the use of antibiotics in sprays and dusts for control of plant diseases is planned by the USDA scientists.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Chemicals used to control weeds in wheat should be applied when the wheat is in the full tiller stage of growth, when the plants are 4 to 6 inches high but before they begin to joint. Experiments carried out by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the Nebraska State Agricultural Experiment Station indicate that wheat is more susceptible to injury and reduced yields result when 2, 4-D is applied in the flowering stage or the early-boot stage when the grain head is beginning to swell in the sheath.

Tomatoes ripen best at a temperature of 65 degrees Fahrenheit, it is shown by studies carried out by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, and there is less chance for decay to develop if ripening proceeds at a normal rate. Like avocados, bananas, squash, and other tropical or subtropical fruits and vegetables, tomatoes can be injured by low, non-freezing temperatures. Shipping and storage in cool but not cold places is recommended by Department specialists who say that 55° is the lowest temperature that is safe for tomatoes.

Corn acreage is now about 1/4 smaller than the record high level of 109,830,000 acres planted in 1933. But U. S. Department of Agriculture figures show that overall production has continued upward as yield per acre has increased from 22.6 bushels in 1933 to 40.6 bushels in 1952 Department specialists attribute this to mechanization, expanding use of hybrid seed, and other advances in production methods.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Sanitation Most Important in Fly Control, USDA Entomologists Say

Farmers who face the problem of successfully controlling insecticide-resistant flies this summer must rely on sanitation measures supplemented with chemicals, according to entomologists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture (or State or local authority).

A thorough farm clean-up that destroys fly-breeding areas greatly reduces fly abundance. Tight screens on doors and windows provide protection against flies coming in from other breeding areas. Where feasible, the Department entomologists urge community-wide sanitation programs for the best results against this summertime enemy.

Where flies have not yet developed insecticide resistance, the use of DDT on the inside and outside surfaces of livestock buildings and methoxychlor inside dairy barns still gives the most satisfactory chemical control, the entomologists believe. These are both residual or long-lasting chemicals that will kill flies for weeks after application to surfaces where flies gather. Another residual insecticide, lindane, can be substituted for methoxychlor for use inside dairy barns and other livestock buildings. Chlordane may also be used as a spray for livestock building surfaces, but not in dairy barns or milk rooms. Sanitation to prevent excessive fly breeding must be practiced to expect satisfactory results with insecticides.

Livestockmen, particularly dairymen, should not overlook synergized pyrethrum and allethrin sprays and aerosols, the entomologists say. These insecticides are effective in controlling both resistant and nonresistant flies in milk rooms and barns that are not too open so that the space spray will remain in the structure and not be diluted by the movement of air currents into and out of the barn. Both

(Over)

pyrethrum and allethrin sprays quickly lose their fly-killing ability and must be renewed each day or as they are needed.

Two new residual insecticides that tests have shown to be useful against resistant flies in some areas are malathon and CS-708 (a mixture of bis-chloro-phenyl nitropropane and butane). Neither of these is recommended for use inside dairy barns, but they may be used outside the dairy barns, in other barns housing livestock, and other places where the flies alight.

Baiting resistant flies to their death is a new method of destroying them being explored by USDA entomologists at their Orlando. Fla., laboratory. A method that has proved effective in experiments in Florida dairy barns is the use on farm floors of a water solution containing the insecticide TEPP and molasses or sirup. Good results have also been reported by other State experiment stations that have tested this treatment. The solution contains 3 percent sweetening agent and 0.05 percent TEPP. Entomologists found it provided good control when applied daily with a sprinkling can to concrete or other nonabsorbent floor surfaces. Flies in the barn and immediate vicinity are attracted to the bait within a few hours and die immediately after feeding on the toxic bait.

Entomologists advocate fly baiting only/when other recommended methods have failed. The concentrated TEPP used in mixing the bait solution is highly toxic to man and animals and must be handled with extreme care. However, only a small amount of TEPP is required in the molasses solution, so that there is no hazard in applying the solution if directions of the suppliers are followed.

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(Note to editor: Department entomologists urge that recommendations of the State experiment stations be followed in controlling flies. The success of different fly-control methods varies greatly in different areas. Entomologists with the experiment stations are most familiar with fly-control problems in their State. Be sure to consult your entomologists and rewrite according to their recommendations.)

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United States Department of Agriculture

Disease-Resistant Beans being Developed by U. S. Department of Agriculture:

A U. S. Department of Agriculture project aimed at production of better varieties of dry beans of the Great Northern and pinto types is entering its final phase this summer. Three new strains of pinto and three of the Great Northern type developed by plant breeders at the Department's Beltsville, Md., research center are being tested in uniform nursery plots at the agricultural experiment stations of seven Western States.

Performance records for 2 to 3 years will show the disease resistance and climatic adaptability of each strain. Then foundation seed of the best of each type will be released through the State experiment stations to the dry bean seed trade for increase.

All the strains of Great Northern and pinto beans being tested are resistant to a number of races of bean rust, and to two kinds of mosaic disease.

The State experiment stations which are cooperating in this project are located in New Mexico, Colorado, Nebraska, Montana, Idaho, Washington, and Wyoming.

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Spraying Cuts Losses From Tomato Blights

Spraying tomato plants with copper fungicides or the more recently developed organic compounds is the best assurance against crop losses from common leaf blight and fruit rot diseases, says ____________________.
(local authority)

Since spraying is a preventive measure, not a cure, tomato growers should not wait until disease symptoms are prevalent to begin spraying, Mr. __________ cautions. Ordinarily the plants should be sprayed about 30 days after the first blossoms appear, and applications made every 7 to 10 days thereafter. In long periods of wet weather more frequent treatment is needed.

Numerous chemical formulas are now available for spraying tomatoes to reduce damage from early blight, septoria leaf spot, gray leaf spot, late blight, and anthracnose fruit rot, according to _______________. County agents and local experiment stations, he says, are the best source of information about the specific chemicals that are available and most effective in their areas.

Sprays are usually more effective than dusts, says _____________, because they stick to the plant better, but if the fields are wet, dusts may be the only thing that can be applied effectively.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Prices Asked for ______________ Farms Down (or Up) From Last Year
(State)

(increased)
______________ farms (declined) slightly in value between the
(State)
spring of 1952 and this year, according to a report from the Bureau of Agricultural Economics, U. S. Department of Agriculture. The average value per acre of farms in this State (rose) (fell) from $__________ to $__________ between March 1952 and March 1953, the Bureau states. This compares with an average value per acre of $________ reported for this State in the 1950 Census. (See pages 12 and 13 of attached report.)

For the United States as a whole, average value per acre for farmland and buildings is estimated at $80.31, as compared with $81.06 a year ago and a census figure of $64.96 in 1950.

Demand for farmland has been weakening across the Nation for the past year and farm real estate values in general have trended downward, according to the Bureau's report, which is based on a survey of farm real estate dealers in each State.

Exceptions to the general trend were noted in top-grade farms, for which the asking price in most areas has remained fairly firm. Rather sharp regional differences in trend were related to local conditions which affect farm outlook and land values.

Sharply lower prices for beef cattle were cited by the Bureau as the reason for a significant drop in prices of grazing land in the Western States. Lower income from livestock was also an important factor in reducing land values in Iowa, Illinois, Ohio, Texas, and Oklahoma, with 2 years of dry weather an additional

(Over)

factor in the last two States. A reduction in acreage allotments for burley tobacco contributed to a 4-percent decline in Kentucky, the Bureau points out.

Increased values per acre were shown in North Dakota, for example, where oil leasing and development activity were reflected. A record wheat crop in Kansas contributed to a small increase in land values in that State. And values continued to hold firm or slightly higher in Tennessee, Alabama, and Mississippi, partly because of demand for small farms by persons employed in local industries.

Sales of farmland in all regions of the country dropped during 1952 and the first part of this year. The decline was sharpest in the west north-central and west south-central regions, where the volume of sales averaged about 15 percent below the previous year, the Bureau reports.

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United States Department of Agriculture

Farm Water Systems Call for Careful Planning

A carefully planned and efficient water system can save work and speed up farm operations in addition to adding to the comfort, safety, and convenience of farm living, says ________________.
(local authority)

For farmers who are intending to install a new water system or improve an old one, the U S. Department of Agriculture offers the following publications: Farmers' Bulletin No. 1978, Safe Water for the Farm, and Miscellaneous Publication No. 674, Planning the Electric Water System and Plumbing for Your Farmstead. Single copies of these bulletins may be obtained free from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Mr.____________ points out that it is well to plan for increased consumption in estimating the amount of water that a new or enlarged power system will be called upon to furnish, since experience shows that farm families use more water when it is easily available. It has also been demonstrated that animals gain weight more rapidly and milk cows produce more milk when they are provided with plenty of water at all times.

Engineers of the U. S. Department of Agriculture estimate that water will be used at the following rate for each individual served: 50 gallons a day for each member of the family; 35 gallons a day for each milk cow; 12 gallons for each horse, dry cow, or beef cow; 4 gallons for each hog; 2 gallons for each sheep; and 4 gallons for each 100 chickens.

All potential needs or uses should be considered in planning not only the capacity of the water system but the location of pipelines, the engineers emphasize. Hours of labor each day can be eliminated by piping rather than hauling water to livestock quarters. And a strategically located hose can prove invaluable for putting out fires in farm buildings.

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Farmers' Bulletin on Poultry Diseases and Parasites Available

It's best to call in an experienced veterinarian when poultry are in trouble from diseases or parasites, according to ______________________, but
State poultry specialist)
many serious troubles can be avoided if a poultry raiser is familiar with the common disorders which can besiege his flock.

To help poultrymen recognize the characteristics of common fowl diseases and parasites and to aid them in applying effective preventive measures, Mr. ______________ calls attention to a newly revised and reprinted U. S. Department of Agriculture Farmers' Bulletin on Diseases and Parasites of Poultry. Along with a description of each disease is included a section on prevention or control as a means of protecting healthy birds.

Single copies of this well illustrated and up-to-date publication, Farmers' Bulletin No. 1652, are available free of charge from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C. (or from a State source if it is available).

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USDA 1287 (5-53)

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WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
United States Department of Agriculture

EXCLUSIVE TO EXTENSION EDITORS
in All States

Barberry Bushes Still a Threat to Grain Crops

Continued attention to barberry eradication and use of rust-resistant varieties of grains is the best answer to the problem of stem rust, says ______________________________ (local plant disease specialist). The stem rust fungus develops in the spring on rust-susceptible barberry bushes in the northern half of the United States, from which it spreads to small grains such as wheat, oats, barley, and rye and to certain grasses. Strong winds can carry the tiny spores for long distances, and it is estimated that enough spores can be produced on one barberry bush to infest 70 billion grain plants.

Varieties of grain resistant to stem rust should be planted, but this will not afford complete protection, since the fungus has the ability to crossbreed and produce new races that can successfully attack previously resistant grain. A relatively new race found for several years only in barberry-infested areas and known to the specialists only as "15^B" has now established itself in all the grain-producing areas east of the Rocky Mountains.

Barberry bushes that harbor the destructive stem rust include the European barberry bushes brought here by the early colonists. Later, it escaped from cultivation and became established as a wild plant in the northern half of the United States. Two native barberries--the Allegany barberry of Virginia and West Virginia and the Colorado barberry--also spread stem rust. The leaves of these susceptible bushes have spiny edges and the bark is gray. The Japanese barberry commonly grown as an ornamental bush does not spread rust and should not be destroyed. Its leaves are small with smooth edges, and the bark is reddish brown.

(More)

Common salt applied to the crown of the plant, or 2, 4-D or ammonium sulfamate applied to freshly cut stubs of bushes after the canes are severed close to the ground, is an effective means of destroying barberry. Merely cutting bushes off at the ground level is insufficient, since roots left unharmed in the soil will sprout again. MCP, a new hormone-type herbicide, is efficient in killing barberry bushes in areas where they grow in abundance, since it is not necessary to cut off the bush before applying it.

Mr.________________ emphasizes that farmers should find and destroy all susceptible barberry bushes on their own property and report to the county agent or State authorities the location of any other rust-spreading bushes.

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WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

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United States Department of Agriculture

Proper Care Will Help Maintain Health of Animals in Transit

Improper handling of livestock during loading for market and in transit causes losses running into millions of dollars annually, according to ________ ____________________ (local authority). Reports from slaughtering establishments indicate that trimmings made necessary by bruises alone represent a loss of several million dollars each year. Millions more are lost through weight shrinkage and illnesses that result from undue exposure or lack of feed, water, and rest.

Since these losses are reflected in lower market prices for animals, producers have a stake in reducing such losses to a minimum, declares Mr. ______ ______________________. More efficient methods of handling livestock during transportation would bring increased returns to the seller, he says.

A newly revised leaflet issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture describes basic methods and equipment necessary to maintain the health of animals in shipment. A single copy can be obtained free by requesting Leaflet No. 38, Maintaining the Health of Livestock in Transit, from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

Following are some suggestions offered for cutting transit injuries:

1. In driving and loading, animals should not be hurried, particularly when they are passing through gates or narrow passages. Squeezing against posts and walls causes severe and deep bruising.

2. A canvas slapper or electric prod should be used to encourage stubborn animals; sharp sticks, whips, and clubs cause injuries that reduce the value of the carcass.

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WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE

United States Department of Agriculture

EXCLUSIVE TO
EXTENSION EDITORS

In Conn., Del., Ind.,
N. C., N. J., N. Y.,
Pa., Va., and W. Va.

BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY NEEDS TWIN CALVES

Identical twin calves of any beef or dual-purpose breed are needed by the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Bureau of Animal Industry to continue calf-feeding studies started in 1950. Offers from breeders to sell their twin calves have been very limited this year, the Bureau reports, and as a result the feeding studies at the Beltsville research center may be seriously handicapped.

Breeders within 300 miles of Washington, D. C., who have identical twin calves which they are willing to sell are requested to write to Dr. C. F. Winchester, Bureau of Animal Industry, Beltsville, Md. Twins 5 months old or younger are desired, and they may be Herefords, Shorthorns, Aberdeen Angus, or any cross of these or other beef breeds. Indentical twins sired by a beef bull and from a dairy cow may also be accepted for experimental use.

Results obtained during the first 4 years of the feeding studies with twin calves showed that those given only enough feed for 6 months to keep them from losing weight, grew rapidly and economically when they were later placed on adequate rations. The retarded calves required no more total feed to reach a certain weight than was consumed by their co-twins even though the former calves reached the desired weight 2 to 3 months later. Meat of the retarted calves was as good as that from the well-fed co-twins fed as controls. Calves fed on limited calorie rations received adequate allowances of protein, minerals, and vitamin A. It is hoped that future feeding studies may lead to further information concerning protein requirements of calves on limited rations.

______________ (local authority) says that identical twin calves develop from the same egg cell and are alike in every respect, including sex.

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WEEKLY NEWS SERVICE
EXCLUSIVE TO EXTENSION EDITORS in All States
United States Department of Agriculture

Use of Chemicals for Weed Control Expanding

Chemical control of weeds is rapidly developing into a successful and economical farm practice, according to ______________________________.
(local or State authority)

Specialists in the U. S. Department of Agriculture report that Americans are using well over 30 million pounds of the so-called phenoxy compounds--2,4-D, 2,4,5,-T, and MCP--annually. During 1950 and 1951, approximately 25 million acres of agricultural lands were treated annually with 2,4-D, only one of the variety of herbicides in use.

The value of chemicals in weed control was first noted about 1900, but only within the past 10 years rapid advances have been made in practical applications of the principal, says Mr.______________. Many success stories can now be told to show the effectiveness of chamical weed control under normal farm conditions, he adds.

Control of wild mustard in wheat is one of the impressive accomplishments cited. Cultural practices developed to meet this problem had proved almost worthless 10 years ago and acreage infested with wild mustard was increasing annually. Now ¼ pound of an amine salt of 2,4-D, the amount needed to control wild mustard in an acre of wheat, can be purchased for 25 cents.

Since the use of weed-killing chemicals presents some hazards to crops, Mr. ____________stresses the importance of having specific directions concerning the chemical to use and the time and method of applying it. Farmers in __________
(area)
who want information about the proper use of herbicides to meet their individual weed problems should contact______________________________. Dealers in agricul-
(local or State authority)
tural chemicals are also a good source of information about the proper chemical to use, and directions supplied by the manufacturer should be followed carefully in applying the material.

(Over)

A survey by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics showed that 18,500,000 acres of small grains and 4,725,000 acres of corn were treated for weed control in 1949.

Last year it was estimated that nearly a quarter million acres of cotton were sprayed for weed control, reducing the cost of production in some cases as much as 10 cents per pound.

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In All States U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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Control of Insects in Farm-Stored Wheat Described in New USDA Leaflet

With large supplies of wheat in farm storage this year--much of it in temporary-type facilities--care should be taken to keep it free of insects, ____________ (local authority) warns ____________ (county or State) farmers.

The U. S. Department of Agriculture has prepared a leaflet to help farmers protect the income represented in this farm-stored wheat. Single copies can be obtained free from the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C., by asking for Leaflet 345, Insects in Farm-Stored Wheat (or from a local source).

Insects in farm-stored wheat cost American farmers millions of dollars every year, says ____________ (local authority). This loss, according to ____________, is preventable.

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Most wheat comes from the harvest field free of insects. To keep it this way, Mr. ____________ stresses the importance of clean, dry, weatherproof bins, sprayed with an insecticide before the wheat is stored. A newly developed protective powder containing 0.08 percent pyrethrins and 1.1 percent piperonyl butoxide may be added to the wheat as it is stored--either by spreading it over the surface of a truckload or wagonload of grain before it is elevated or shoveled into storage, or by using an automatic applicator to feed the powder directly into the wheat stream as it is elevated. This powder is sold under a trade name and can be obtained from dealers in agricultural chemicals.

Even though all these precautions are taken, it is still necessary to inspect stored wheat regularly. Extra vigilance is recommended for damp grain because it is more attractive to insects. If insects appear, the wheat should be fumigated. This is the only way to put a stop to insect activity after the grain is stored, according to Mr. ____________. The USDA leaflet lists types of fumigants which are effective and gives directions for using them properly.

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Up-Trend in Milk Consumption Is Worldwide

The Foreign Agricultural Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture reports that not only Americans are drinking more milk and consuming more nonfat milk solids (dried skim milk), as reported recently by the Bureau of Agricultural Economics. The same trend is evident, according to FAS, in most of the world's important milk-producing countries.

Human consumption of liquid milk has increased significantly in recent years in the United States, Canada, Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Western Germany, the Netherlands, Norway, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom, Australia, and New Zealand. In 1952, the people of these countries drank 125,750,000,000 pounds of milk, as compared with 94,620,000,000 in the 1934-38 prewar period.

Consumption of dried skim milk has also increased in most of the major producing countries, including the United States, but consumption of butter and cream has declined.

The Foreign Agricultural Service attributes the use of more liquid milk to several causes. A rapid growth of nutritional science has brought about better understanding of the food value of milk. Employment and consumers' earnings have been favorable in recent years, both here and abroad, and retail milk prices have tended to increase less than prices of other foods. Also, some countries have subsidized milk prices.

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NEW LAW PROVIDES SPECIAL TAX BENEFITS FOR GRAIN STORAGE FACILITIES

Special income tax deductions have been provided by Congress for grain producers and warehousemen who complete or acquire additional grain storage facilities between January 1, 1953, and December 31, 1956, ______________ reminds farmers of ____________________.

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Public Law 287, recently signed by President Eisenhower, provides, in place of the ordinary depreciation allowances, for income tax deductions based on amortization over a 5-year period of the cost of building new grain storage facilities or of converting or enlarging existing space for grain storage. The deductions apply to corncribs, grain bins, grain elevators, or any similar structure suitable primarily for the storage of grain and intended for that use.

To take advantage of the benefits provided under Public Law 287, Mr. ______________ says that a grain producer who qualifies under the act for such deductions needs only to state his intention in his income tax return for the year in which the facility was acquired or completed. Permission before adding the facility is not needed to obtain the tax deduction.

The law states that deductions should be computed on a monthly basis, dividing the adjusted cost of the improvement by the number of months left in the 60-month amortization period to obtain the deduction allowable for 1 month. A copy of Public Law 287, 83d Congress, can be obtained at the price of 5 cents by writing to the Superintendent of Documents, U. S Government Printing Office, Washington 25, D C. No regulations or instructions on the grain storage provision are available at this time.

USDA 2317 (9-53)

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

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to Extension
Editors

SALT AND WATER DRAW CATTLE TO UNDERGRAZED AREAS

More uniform grazing of range or pastureland can be obtained, suggests ____________________, by providing water, salt, or shelter in locations that have proved to be least popular with the grazing animals. Better distribution of livestock grazing leads to more efficient production of both forage and livestock, Mr.______________ points out, because it prevents overgrazing of some areas while forage in other areas goes unused.

A study of forage utilization by cattle on the Northern Great Plains ranges made by the U. S. Forest Service over a period of 6 years showed that development of watering places is one of the best ways of getting better distribution of grazing. Cattle were successfully attracted to upland ranges and away from heavily grazed bottomlands through this means. Even temporoary watering stations that took care of only a few head of cattle and lasted only a short time proved well worth while.

Salting was another successful means of attracting cattle to less-favored areas. And it is not necessary to locate salt and water close together, as is commonly believed. Studies in California showed an average lapse of nearly 7½ hours between the time cattle ate salt and drank water, even though they could have walked directly from salt to water in 20 minutes.

Sheds or other shelters provided as protection from the weather should also be placed in areas where grazing is ordinarily light, according to Mr.____________, to serve as additional help in obtaining better grazing distribution.

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In All States

Long Heads and Deep Bodies May Mark Good Milk Cows

Scientists are now finding evidence that body measurements of a heifer calf--even at 3 to 6 months of age--may give a clue to her later performance as a milk producer. Data thus far accumulated indicate that a cow with a long head and a long, deep body, as compared with other cows of the same breed and background, will probably make a good milker.

The old question whether there is a relationship between body form and milking capacity, speculated upon by dairymen for many generations, is at last being subjected to the spotlight of research at the U. S. Department of Agriculture's research center at Beltsville, Md. Ability to spot good milkers among young calves would be worth millions of dollars yearly to the dairy industry.

Of two breeds studied by Bureau of Dairy Industry scientists, Holsteins showed a highly significant relationship between the level of milk production and 18 different body measurements. Jerseys showed significant relationships with only two of the body measurements studied. The reason for this difference between breeds is not yet understood.

Head length and body depth were related to milk production capacity in both breeds, but there was little correlation between body widths and levels of production. Neither did body weight appear to be an important factor in marking a good milk cow.

Body measurements of Holsteins at 3 and 6 months of age showed almost the same relationships to later milk production as measurements taken during the first lactation period, which indicates that certain body dimensions in calves may be as good as indication of producing capacity as body dimensions in the lactating cow.

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USDA 2403 (9-53)

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In All States

CORN-FED ANIMALS REQUIRE VITAMIN A SUPPLEMENT

Corn kept under good storage conditions is an excellent source of protein and energy in animal feed, but it should be supplemented with some other source of vitamin A, according to ________________________________.

Recent tests carried out by the Bureau of Animal Industry at the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Research Center at Beltsville, Md., indicate that stored corn is not a dependable source of the important A vitamin, so essential in maintaining the health of livestock.

Green forage is one of the best sources of vitamin A, says Mr. ___________________, but when this is not available, alfalfa leaf meal or any leafy hay, especially alfalfa hay, can be substituted to supply this important food element. Grass or corn silage is also a good source of vitamin A.

Farmers who use commercial feed mixtures should check the label to determine that some source of vitamin A other than corn is present, __________________ says. Some feeds contain a crystalline or pure form of the vitamin. Others contain fortified fish oils, or alfalfa leaf meal. In some instances the vitamin content is stated on the label. Freshness is important, ____________________ emphasizes, since ground feeds tend to lose their vitamin A content with age.

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In North Dakota, South Dakota,
Montana, and Wyoming

PLAN SHELTERBELTS TO CATCH EXTRA MOISTURE IN DRIFTED SNOW

Shelterbelts in the nothern Great Plains should be limited to 8 or 10 rows of trees, suggests ______________. Larger blocks of trees seldom survive for many years in this area, owing to constantly increasing competition for moisture as the trees mature.

Since the rainfall here averages only 15 inches annually, and in many years is much less than that, trees must be given an opportunity to take advantage of the extra moisture provided by drifted snow.

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Trees spaced too widely in the row as well as between rows are not likely to hold much snow and offer very little wind protection. A distance of 12 to 15 feet between rows and 6 to 8 feet between trees in the row is effective for holding both wind and snow, says ______________.

Planting the trees at this distance apart will also give maximum protection from the drying effects of wind and sun. The growing trees will provide shade to discourage the growth of weeds, grasses, and other competitors for moisture. Leaves and other litter will gradually build up beneath the trees, forming a natural mulch to catch and hold the rain and snow.

One more precaution is offered by Mr. ______________ for the plainsman who would grow a successful shelterbelt: Protect the trees from livestock, and call on your county agricultural agent to help you control any destructive insects or diseases.

County agricultural agents (or State foresters) can advise about tree species best adapted to your land site.

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SINK DISPOSAL OF KITCHEN WASTES CALLS FOR LARGER SEPTIC TANK

Should sink-type garbage disposal units be installed in suburban and farm homes equipped with septic tanks? This is an oft-recurring question now that disposal of kitchen wastes through the kitchen sink drain is becoming a more established practice.

Specialists at the U. S. Department of Agriculture (or local authority) report that ordinary kitchen wastes can be disposed of successfully through a septic tank if the septic tank has sufficient capacity to handle the extra load.

For ordinary usage the Department of Agriculture recommends a septic tank with a liquid capacity of approximately 100 gallons for each person living in the house, with a minimum of 500 gallons capacity for 4 or fewer persons. If a garbage disposal unit is connected to the system, the liquid capacity should amount to at least 150 gallons per person, or a minimum capacity of 750 gallons. Many houses are already equipped with large enough tanks to provide this recommended capacity.

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The sludge depth in the tank should be checked about once a year, say the USDA experts, especially if there is any question about the capacity of the tank in relation to the demands of the household it serves. Sludge, or solid deposit, should be cleaned out when it accumulates to a third or a half of the tank's total liquid capacity.

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USDA 2468 (10-53)

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In All States

Food Prospect Good for Next Year

Abundant supplies of food expected to be available this next year will permit United States citizens to continue to eat 12 percent more than their 1935-39 average, according to Dr. Marguerite C. Burk in an address presented at the 31st Annual Agricultural Outlook Conference. Employment and consumer incomes are expected to be high enough in 1954 to support this increased demand for food, said Dr. Burk.

As for retail food prices, they also are expected to average close to the 1953 level next year, though this will depend in part on how 1954 crops turn out and the general level of economic activity, Dr. Burk added.

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In All States

Food Prospect Good for Next Year

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In All States

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Special to Extension Editors

Farm Prices To Remain Steady but Production Costs May Fall, Say Ag Economists

A hopeful note was sounded at the Annual Agricultural Outlook Conference to the effect that there may be some further moderate drops in farm production costs next year, in addition to slight reductions in 1953, according to ________. Prices received for farm products, on the other hand, are not likely to fall much below their present levels, except for normal seasonal variations, predict U. S. Department of Agriculture economists.

The fall in prices of farm products and farm incomes this year has been due largely to two factors, the USDA economists explain. These are bounteous harvests and a sharp curtailment in foreign demand for United States farm products.

Total crop output next year may be reduced somewhat by acreage restrictions for wheat, corn, and cotton, though supplies are again likely to be larger if weather is favorable. An improved foreign gold and dollar situation may strengthen export demand if official policies on the use of the gold and dollar reserves permit. Domestic demand, which has been at a high level throughout 1953, is expected to continue strong in 1954. Price supports will cushion the effects of large carryover supplies. Taken together, these factors spell a probable stabilization of farm prices near their present levels.

The general level of prices paid by farmers ran about 3 percent below the 1952 level in the first 9 months of this year, the USDA economists report. Most of the decline was due to lower prices for feed and feeder livestock, and prices of these major items are not expected to change much from present reduced levels. Prices of industrial products will probably change very little, the report indicates, but price concessions are likely to be more general than in 1953 for those commodities produced primarily for the farm market.

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In All States

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High Demand for Meat, More Stable Cattle Prices Forecast for 1954

Next year will be another year of large supplies of red meat. Consumption is also expected to continue high, and retail prices in 1954 are expected to average about the same as in 1953. This was the prediction of U. S Department of Agriculture economists at the annual Agricultural Outlook Conference (or local authority).

For 15 years cattle prices have been unusually high as compared with prices for all farm commodities, say the economists. Now, even though they are at the lowest point since 1946, cattle prices are still more favorable in relation to other farm prices than they were during the 1910-14 base period which is used for parity computations. They are lower, however, than could be considered normal at this time because of their long-term trend upward.

Persistent declines in cattle prices over the past 2 years appear to be about ended, but the forecast does not indicate that they will regain their levels of a year or two ago.

Fewer cattle are being put on feed grains for fattening this fall than last. This means the supply of finished cattle in the first half of 1954 is likely to be smaller next year, but the supply of grass-fed beef will remain high, the outlook report indicated. Grass-fed beef usually grades as Good, Commercial, or Utility, according to governemnt standards.

Consumption of beef in 1953 appears to have reached an alltime high of 75 pounds per capita if it continues at its present level to the year's end. For meat in general, including poultry, consumption is higher than usual at 178 pounds per person, USDA statistics indicate.

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Special to Extension Editors

In all States

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Government Beef Purchases Made To Strengthen Cattle Markets

Government purchases of beef for domestic uses and export, started last April, will amount to about 220 or 225 million pounds by the end of the year, according to information received from the U. S. Department of Agriculture. This is the equivalent of more than 750,000 head of cattle.

Contracts for the Government purchases were let during the summer, but delivery schedules have been planned to increase cattle demand during the fall months when marketings are heaviest and there is the greatest need for stabilizing the market.

Sharp drops in cattle prices, which started their downward trend 2 years ago, are largely the result of increased marketings from a record national cattle herd of 94 million head. Drought has complicated the situation by stepping up marketings, particularly of lower-grade cattle, and reducing the normal demand for animals for high-finish feeding and herd replacements.

The bulk of the Government beef purchases were arranged by the Department of Agriculture for distribution through the school lunch program and nonprofit institutions. About 18 million pounds were purchased by the Foreign Operations Administration for overseas supply.

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Because producer price problems are greatest this year in the cheaper grades of cattle, owing to prolonged drought conditions, the Government contracts have called for U. S. Commercial and Utility grade carcasses, with greatest emphasis on U. S. Cutter and Canner grades.

(Over)

Note to Editor: Current beef purchases, the Department of Agriculture advises, are part of a five-point program aimed at stabilizing cattle prices. Other measures include a promotion campaign to increase beef consumption, special credit to maintain foundation herds, cutrate feed concentrates and hay for drought areas, and reduced freight rates on feed, hay, and livestock.

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In All States

U. S. Beef Consumption Reaches Record Level

A cooperative government-industry effort to increase the consumption of beef has helped increase per capita consumption of this meat to record levels, reports

______________________.
(local authority)

In this effort, retail and wholesale meat trade groups, in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, have been carrying out an intensive campaign to promote beef consumption by calling consumers' attention to the availability of abundant supplies of good beef at lower prices. The purpose is to help strengthen live cattle prices, which have been falling for the past 2 years, with further declines in the price of lower grades during recent months due to drought conditions in many parts of the country.

The beef promotion campaign, started last August, is now showing definite effects, Mr. ____________ points out. Americans are now eating an average of 75 pounds of beef per year for every man, woman, and child, according to USDA statistics. This is the highest figure ever reached for beef alone and represents an increase of one-fourth over last year's per capita consumption.

Drought conditions this past summer have aggravated farmers' price problems by causing a rush to market of many animals which would normally be kept for feeding and for stock replacements. Market reports show a 30-percent increase in cattle marketing this year over last. Emergency feed and credit at reduced rates have helped to offset this trend and to maintain foundation herds.

(Over)

Note to Editor: The beef promotion campaign is part of a five-point program designed to help drought-stricken cattlemen and stabilize cattle markets. In addition to sales promotion, the program includes direct Government beef purchases, emergency feed distribution, special livestock credit, and reduced freight rates on feed, hay, and livestock moved from drought areas.

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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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In All States

Freight Rate Reductions on Feed And Livestock Help To Maintain Cattle Herds

Rate reductions provided by southern and western railroads on feed, hay, and livestock are described by ________________ as an effective part of a program organized by the U. S. Department of Agriculture to provide drought relief for livestock producers and stabilize cattle markets.

On urgent appeals from Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, the railroads have cooperated in the drought relief program by reducing normal freight rates. On July 1, railroads west of the Mississippi reduced rates 50 percent for moving Government-owned feeds into designated drought areas. Another rate arrangement providing for free return trips for cattle moved from drought areas to better grazing land was put into effect August 14. Then on October 23, both southern and western railroads agreed to a 50-percent rate reduction up to November 16 for moving into drought disaster States. Illinois railroads agreed to a 50-percent reduction for moving hay into drought disaster areas effective October 30.

Freight rate reductions, together with emergency feed and credit provided by the Department of Agriculture, are making it possible for many livestock men in drought diseaster areas to maintain their foundation herds, reducing the number of animals that might otherwise be rushed to market this year because of drought conditions.

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Note to Editor: The freight rate reductions are part of a five-point program to help stabilize livestock markets and provide relief to drought-stricken farmers and ranchers. Other parts of the program include livestock loans, cut-price feed supplies for drought areas, an intensive beef sales promotion campaign by industry and Government cooperating, and direct Government purchases of more than 200 million pounds of beef or the equivalent of more than 750,000 head of lower grade cattle, for the school lunch program and distribution through eligible nonprofit institutions.

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NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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Drought Relief Programs Designed To Help Ease Pressure on Livestock Market

Drought relief programs being carried out by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, under authority from President Eisenhower and Congress, will have a beneficial effect in strengthening livestock markets, says ____________________.

Beef consumption is at an all-time high, according to USDA officials, but cattle prices, which have been dropping since April 1951, declined even further this summer owing to increased marketing of animals from drought-stricken areas.

A five-point beef program aimed at bolstering cattle markets includes feed from Government stocks provided at low rates in drought areas; emergency credit; reduced freight rates provided by southern and western railroads on feed, hay, and livestock; an intensive Government-industry beef sales promotion campaign; and direct Government purchases of beef.

The first three of these measures were aimed directly at providing relief to individual livestock producers suffereing from drought conditions, but the effect in the market, USDA officials stress, is expected to be felt throughout the livestock industry. Because of these relief programs, record high beef consumption, and direct Government beef purchases, prices for lower grades of cattle have been strengthened during the past few weeks. The Department beef purchase program will have diverted the equivalent of more than 750,000 head of lower grade cattle from markets before December 15.

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Feed concentrates and grain from Commodity Credit Corporation stocks have been made available to eligible farmers and ranchers in designated drought areas. As of October 30, the total quantity of feed approved for distribution was more than 947,000 tons. The cost of distributing this feed is being met from a fund of $40,000,000 provided by the Congress for this purpose. The amount of Government-owned feed approved as of October 30 for distribution in ____________________ (State) amounted to ______________ tons.

Emergency credit legislation passed last summer by the Congress provided special livestock loans which are available in all States. Under this program 1,343 loans for nearly $14,000,000 have been approved for ranchers and farmers in 38 States and Hawaii, with 90 percent of these made in 12 drought States. In this State, _____________ loans had been made by October 30, amounting to $______________. Production and subsistence loans as well as livestock loans are available from the Farmers Home Administration.

The Federal Government will also assist with transportation costs for shipping emergency hay supplies into those designated drought States that take the responsibility for procurement and distribution of such hay.

In answer to urgent appeals by Secretary of Agriculture Ezra Taft Benson, western railroads have reduced freight rates 50 percent for moving Government-owned feeds into drought areas. A similar concession was made for moving livestock from drought areas into nondrought States, and both southern and western railroads, as well as Illinois railroads, have agreed to a 50-percent rate reduction for moving hay into drought disaster areas.

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NOTE TO EDITOR: The attached sheet gives State figures on special livestock loans approved October 30, 1953. Following are the quantities of Government-owned feed approved for distribution as of October 30:

	(Tons)		(Tons)
Arkansas	105,026	Nevada	7,475
Colorado	12,772	New Mexico	69,277
Kansas	84,443	North Carolina	5,349
Kentucky	2,789	Oklahoma	110,818
Mississippi	943	Tennessee	9,769
Missouri	162,784	Texas	371,129
		Virginia	4,786

NEWS SERVICE FOR WEEKLIES

U. S. Department of Agriculture

Special to Extension Editors

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In All States

Level of Protein Needed in Broiler Rations Determined by USDA-Maryland Experiments

Related experiments conducted at the United States Department of Agriculture's Beltsville, Md., research center and at the University of Maryland indicate that broilers between 6 weeks and 10 weeks of age gain weight most efficiently on rations containing 18 or 19 percent protein. Birds younger than 6 weeks require between 20 and 22 percent protein for most rapid growth and development, but after 6 to 8 weeks gains are equally rapid on the lower-protein ration.

On the other hand, broilers placed on a 16-percent protein ration at 6 or 8 weeks failed to gain as well as those on a ration containing 19 percent protein, indicating that 16 percent is an inadequate protein level in the 6- to 10-week growth period.

The protein level in broiler rations can be reduced, say USDA poultry specialists, by feeding grains, by feeding low-protein finishing pellets, or by using a lower protein all-mash system. Of these methods, the use of a lower protein all-mash system is the easiest and the most foolproof. The extra work involved in feeding pellets or grain and the chance of reducing protein too much may offset the savings to be realized through the use of a lower protein ration.

The birds used in the USDA-University of Maryland experiments were a fast-growing, rapid-feathering strain of New Hampshires.

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In All States

U. S. Department of Agriculture

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Foreign Agricultural Service Will Promote Sales of U. S. Farm Products

Aggressive promotion of the foreign sale of American farm products will be a primary responsibility of the Foreign Agricultural Service, a new organization in the United States Department of Agriculture, according to Gustave Burmeister, Assistant Director of the FAS.

The FAS will keep American agriculture informed of foreign trade developments affecting it, Burmeister says. And it will provide important services in contacts with foreign governments which either directly transact business or strictly control it. Meanwhile, this country must find a way to bridge the gap between total exports and imports, and our farm exports need to be in a better position, price-wise, to compete in world markets. Any actions taken, Mr. Burmeister stresses, must be the kind that help maintain our own high standards of living.

FAS is cooperating with the Foreign Operations Administration in a program provided for under section 550 of the Mutual Security Act of 1953 to sell up to $250 million worth of surplus agricultural commodities to friendly countries in return for foreign currency rather than dollars. This program is developing rapidly, according to Mr. Burmeister, and should be of great assistance in boosting exports to some countries.

Forty million acres of United States cropland is producing for export, Mr. Burmeister states. Last year we exported 19 percent of our tobacco crop, 21 percent of our cotton crop, 25 percent of our wheat crop, and 56 percent of our rice crop. Though foreign sales fell last year to a relatively low postwar level of $2.8 billion, this amount which was still very high as compared with prewar figures, would represent more than $500 income per farm if it was divided equally among all the farms in the United States.

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In All States

More Marketing Services Take Larger Share of Consumer's Food Dollar

More services are being performed than ever before in the marketing of United States food products, say economists of the U. S. Department of Agriculture. And the result, they add, is that a growing share of the consumer's food dollar is going into marketing charges.

More and better packaging, washing, selection, mixing, precooking, and preparing of products for the American table are a continuing trend which partially explains a widening spread between farm prices and retail costs of food, according to a report on marketing and transportation recently released by the Department.

Several reasons are given for the increases in marketing services. One of the most significant is the mounting proportion of women, especially married women, now working outside the home. The families of working women tend to buy more partially prepared and wholly prepared foods, and eat more meals in restaurants. Both these practices increase marketing charges in relating to farm value of the foods consumed.

Other long-term trends that effect the spread between farm prices and retail prices, according to the report, are geographic specialization in farm production and greater concentration of our population in urban centers. Transportation costs are increased as more of our people live farther away from the areas in which their food is produced.

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Improvement in consumer incomes is another factor described as responsible for increasing demand for marketing services. As incomes improve, consumers do not buy a significantly larger quantity of food, but they are willing to pay for the kind of services that improve the quality and attractiveness of the food they buy or save their time in preparing it.

Farmers probably will receive about the same share of the consumer's food dollar next year as in 1953, according to the (USDA or State) farm economists. The share for this year is tentatively estimated at 45 cents.

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In All States

More Labor Now Required To Market U. S. Farm Product Than To Grow It

More workers are now engaged in the marketing of farm products than in farm production itself, according to a recent U. S. Department of Agriculture report on marketing and transportation of farm products.

While fewer and fewer workers have been needed over the past two decades to produce food and fiber on United States farms, more and more people have been engaged in marketing America's farm abundance, the report indicates. During the last 20 years the number of workers in agriculture decreased by 10 to 15 percent, but the number engaged in marketing may have increased by more than a third.

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In All States

DECLINE in ____________ FARM POPULATION REFLECTS NATIONAL TREND

____________'s farm population decreased from ____________ to
State
____________ between 1920 and 1950, while the total population increased from __________ to ______________ during the same period. In 1920 the farm population was ______ percent of the total State population, but by 1950 the proportion living on farms was reduced to ________ percent. (See attached tables.)

This picture of decline in both number and percentage of people living on farms is fairly typical of the whole country, according to ____________, who cites a recent report on farm population figures published by the Agricultural Marketing Service of the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

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For the Nation as a whole, the total population rose between 1920 and 1950 from 106,098,000 to 150,697,000 people. The number living on farms fell during this same period from 31,974,000 to 25,058,000. While the total population was increasing itself by almost a half, the proportion living on farms fell from 30.1 percent to 16.6 percent. Whereas about 1 American out of every 3 resided on a farm in 1920, only about 1 in 6 was a farm resident by 1950.

The proportion of people living on farms in the United States has declined rather steadily since 1910, the earliest date for which estimates of farm population are available, but the actual numbers have fluctuated up and down in response to war and economic influences, the report shows. Even the total numbers have trended downward in the long run, however, showing a reduction of 21 percent in the four decades between 1910 and 1950.

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In All States

Agriculture Uses Four-fifths of U. S. Land

About one-fourth of the land in continental United States is cropland and more than half is permanent pasture and grazing land. Altogether, around four-fifths of United States land area is at present used for some kind of agricultural production. If all other timber and woodland is added to this, it constitutes nine-tenths of our total land area.

These interesting facts and those that follow were taken from a study of the major uses of land in the United States prepared by the U. S. Department of Agriculture with the aid of the State land-grant colleges and drawing upon records of the Departments of Commerce and Interior.

While there have been notable shifts in the use of land in many localities and regions, the total acreages devoted to cropland and other major land uses have remained relatively stable since 1920. Acreages of cropland and improved pasture have increased generally in the West and in the lower Mississippi Valley, but in many parts of the Northeast and the Southwest, acreages of cropland have decreased.

It is estimated that around 20 million acreas of cropland in various parts of the country are idle each year because of wet weather, drought, lack of capital, soil erosion, low fertility, or other reasons. Much of this idle land could be improved by erosion control, cover crops, clearing of brush, drainage, or irrigation, the study indicates.

With a total tillable land area of about 509 million acres, the United States ranks high among the nations of the world with the largest acreage of arable land. All of Europe, except for that part which lies in the Soviet Union, contains only about four-fifths as much tillable land as the United States. The Soviet Union is reported to have about 500 million acres of tillable land.

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In All States

Drainage and Irrigation Were Important Factors in Past Farm Output Increases

Drainage and irrigation are often overlooked as important contributors to the remarkable increase in total United States farm output, it is pointed out in a report recently issued by the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

An expansion of nearly one-third in the total farm product since 1940 has been attributed largely to increased mechanization, more fertilization, better control of insects and plant diseases, and use of improved seeds and better livestock. The USDA report agrees that these were important factors, but it points out that drainage and irrigation have also played significant roles in increasing farm production.

Since 1940, about 17 million acres have been drained and 8 million acres of farmland have been irrigated. In addition there has been extensive improvement of existing farm drainage in the South and in the Corn Belt, and supplemental irrigation water has been provided in many areas where needed in the West.

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Special to Extension Editors

In All States

Fertilizer Supply To Be Good, but Buy Early, Says ____________________

The fertilizer supply for the 1953-54 crop year looks very favorable at this time. But since there frequently are spot shortages of certain favored materials, even in a year of good overall supply, ____________________ reminds ____________________ (area) farmers that the best way to be sure of having the right type and the desired amount of fertilizer available when it is needed is to order early. Fertilizer can be stored safely in any dry place, he adds.

A report from the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Commodity Stabilization Service indicates that supplies of fertilizer for the 1953-54 season will be up about 11 percent over the total available during the last growing season. The amount of nitrogen will be about 2 million tons, phosphates 2-2/3 million tons, and potash a little under 2 million tons. Last year's total supplies amounted to 1.8 million tons of nitrogen, 2.4 million tons of phosphates, and 1.7 million tons of potash.

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In All States

Clovers in Bermuda Grass Equal to Applied Nitrogen

In field tests at Tifton, Ga., conducted cooperatively by USDA and the Coastal Plains Experiment Station, clover growing in combination with Coastal Bermuda grass produced as much forage as was obtained when Coastal Bermuda was grown without a legume but with 100 pounds of applied nitrogen.

Louisiana white, Dixie crimson, and subterranean clovers all equaled the nitrogen application in effect. On the other hand, big trefoil in combination with Coastal Bermnda grass produced between 600 and 800 pounds less forage than the Bermuda grass alone with 100 pounds of applied nitrogen.

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In All States

Calves on Range Need Protein Supplement

At least 1 pound of protein supplement daily was found to be needed in winter for normal growth and development of weaner steer calves on native range in tests conducted at Southern Great Plains Field Station, Woodward, Okla., by the U. S. Department of Agriculture in cooperation with the Oklahoma State Agricultural Experimental Station.

Calves fed at a rate of 1 pound of 41-percent-protein cottonseed cake per day during winter gained 77 pounds more per head annually over a 3-year period than similar steers fed no protein supplement.

Though feeding the supplement at the 1-pound rate proved more profitable in the Oklahoma tests than feeding a 2-pound rate, a heavier rate might be advantageous during winters of extreme feed shortage or severe weather, says

______________________.
(local authority)

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In All States

Length of Day Found To Affect Growth of Bromegrass

Research that may lead to eventful development of forage plants capable of maintaining a more satisfactory rate of growth throughout the year is being carried out at the U. S. Department of Agriculture's research center at Beltsville, Md. The findings thus far, according to ________________ (local authority) throw some light on why pasture production slows down in midsummer and then recovers, under normal conditions, in the fall.

The Beltsville research, which was directed at studying the effect of light upon plant growth, showed that bromegrass recovers its growth more quickly after cutting and produces more new shoots when days are short than it does during the longer days of midsummer. This effect of longer light periods was also found to be more acute on some strains of bromegrass than on others.

All the cut shoots on three strains of bromegrass showed new growth when cuttings were made during a season with 11-hour days. But cut shoots showing new growth in a 14-hour day ranged from 56 to 84 percent, and the proportion showing new growth dropped to a range of 18 to 51 percent when the day was prolonged to 17 hours.

Decrease in production during long days was found to be greater in bromegrass strains from the middle and southern latitudes than in northern strains.

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In Minnesota, Montana, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Wyoming

Grass - Legume Mixture Produces Better Pasture in Northern Plains

Results of pasture studies at the Northern Great Plains Agricultural Field Station, Mandan, N. Dak., suggest that grass-legume mixtures will provide more dependable pasture production in the Northern Great Plains than can be expected from grass alone.

Mixed grass and alfalfa, consisting primarily of crested wheatgrass, bromegrass, and Ladak alfalfa, produced 1,006 pounds of digestible nutrients per acre as compared with 460 pounds from crested wheatgrass alone, 496 from Sudangrass, and 271 pounds from native grass, when all these were planted under similar dryland conditions at Mandan in 1952.

The number of grazing days per acre averaged 50,35,33, and 17, respectively, for the same pastures, and milk production in pounds per acre was 2,041 for the mixed grass and alfalfa, 1,475 for the crested wheatgrass, 1,098 for the Sudangrass, and 685 for the native grass pasture.

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In Arkansas, Georgia, Kansas, Kentucky, Maryland Missouri,
North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, and Virginia

Rowan Lespedeza Found Resistant to Nematodes Common in Southeast

Studies carried out cooperatively by the U. S. Department of Agriculture and the North Carolina Agricultural Experiment Station have shown that Rowan lespedeza, a new variety developed in North Carolina, is resistant to two forms of nematodes which are common in southeastern United States. Owing to this resistance, Rowan lespedeza has produced up to twice the yield of Korean lespedeza on nematode-infested soils in North Carolina.

About 55,000 pounds of Rowan seed were available to farmers for planting in 1953. Farmers who have nematode-infested soil should consider changing to this variety if they want to grow lespedeza, according to ______________________.

Note to Extension Editors: Your State experiment station may be able to advise you about the availability of Rowan seed in your State.

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In All States

New Bulletin Discusses Strip Cropping

A new Farmers' Bulletin by the U. S. Department of Agriculture, Strip Cropping for Conservation and Production, describes a farm practice which is becoming widely adopted in this country as its effectiveness in conserving soil, plant food, and moisture is better appreciated.

Strip cropping is an old conservation practice, but little was known about it in this country until the Department's Soil Conservation Service tested its value in thousands of farm demonstrations. Now farmers all over the United States are adopting it as one of the easiest ways to hold the soil in place, conserve moisture, and increase crop yields.

The practice had been applied to more than 7¼ million acres by the middle of 1952, according to USDA records, and farmers in soil conservation districts have made plans to strip-crop an additional 12 million acres. Use of strip cropping is being encouraged by the programs of both the Agricultural Conservation Program Serviceand the Soil Conservation Service.

The bulletin describes the different types and uses of strip cropping, including such practices as crop rotations, contour cultivation, proper tillage, and cover cropping, which are part of a strip-cropping system. It discusses the management of strip-cropped fields and the adaptability of the sustem to the four principal regions of this country.

A single copy of Strip Cropping for Conservation and Production may be obtained without charge by writing to the Office of Information, U. S. Department of Agriculture, Washington 25, D. C.

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In All States

Fillers

An estimated 865,000 head of lower-grade cattle were diverted from normal trade channels during 1953 by USDA purchases of beef products. USDA officials state that this diversion, over 90 percent of which took effect during the heavy fall marketing season, has strongly benefited market prices for lower grades of cattle.

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The United States now competes with China and Manchuria as one of the world's principal producers of soybeans, a crop native to eastern Asia. According to historical records, the Chinese have been using soybean products for more than 3,000 years. One of the oldest Chinese products, soy sauce, has become an important condiment here; most Worcestershire sauces, for example, contain from 10 to 30 percent soy sauce. Other more important United States products include soybean oil, soybean-oil meal for animal feeds, and soybean flour.

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In All States

Permanent Pastures Improved Through Use of 2,4-D

Recent research indicates that two-thirds of a pound per acre of the amine salt formulation of 2,4-D is the right amount to control most weeds in permanent pasture and result in a better stand of grasses without apparent damage to white clover or lespedeza, according to ____________________.

Mr. ________________ says that tests during the past 3 years in Mississippi and other areas, carried out in cooperation with the U. S. Department of Agriculture, show that 2,4-D is beneficial to pastures provided that it is used on established grass and legume stnads and the rate does not exceed two-thirds of a pound per acre. Heavier applications injure the legumes.

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East of the Mississippi

Control of Chickweed Improves Alfalfa Stands

Successful control of chickweed in alfalfa nearly doubled the first-year yield from that crop in tests carried out during the past 3 years in New Jersey through the cooperation of New Jersey State authorities and the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

Two chemicals proved effective in controlling the chickweed, which has become a serious winter weed in the Eastern half of the United States. Either 1 pound of DNOSBP (dinitro ortho secondary butyl phenol) or 3 pounds of CIPC (isopropyl N-(3-chlorophenyl carbonate), per acre, mixed in any volume of water from 20 to 80 gallons, killed the weed.

Chickweed germinates in the late summer and early fall, and the herbicides, DNOSBP, in particular, should be applied between November and March when the alfalfa is dormant, according to ________________________. The date and frequency of application will depend on the stand and growth of the weed. Split applications of a half pound each of DNOSBP in December and January are best when chickweed is thick. Or one application of CIPC is sufficient for the entire chickweed growing season.

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